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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3593
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 000544

DEPT FOR SE GRATION, S/USSES, AF A A/S CARTER, AF/C
NSC FOR MGAVIN AND HUDSON
DEPT PLS PASS USAID FOR AFR/SUDAN
ADDIS ABABA ALSO FOR USAU

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [SOCI](#) [AU](#) [UNSC](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: UNAMID UPDATE APRIL 21

REF: A) KHARTOUM 486
B) KHARTOUM 449

¶1. (SBU) The night of April 19, a fire broke out at UNAMID Headquarters in El Fasher causing millions of dollars worth of damage, UNAMID officials told poloff on April 21. UNAMID Public Information Chief Kemal Saiki told poloff that at approximately 22:30 on April 10, a fire was detected at the UNAMID's Communications and Information Technology Services (CITS) Supply Warehouses on the ARC Compound which quickly spread to surrounding containers. UNAMID fire fighters eventually brought the fire under control and managed to extinguish it at approximately 02:30 on April 20. No one was hurt in the incident, but 11 container offices and two warehouses were destroyed, causing an estimated \$4 million worth of damage to IT and communications equipment and an additional \$1 million of damage to office furniture and other miscellaneous items. Saiki stated that a UN Special Investigative Unit (SIU) is investigating the incident, but that it appeared to be accidental and may have been sparked by an electrical short circuit. Wolfgang Weiszeggar, UNAMID's Deputy Director of Mission Support, stated that there have been no major operational interruptions as a result of the fire. An assessment will be made to establish priorities for replenishment of lost equipment, he said.

¶2. (SBU) With regard to deployment, Weiszeggar noted that he had no information on the arrival of the Ethiopian attack helicopter contingent, noting that negotiations are being handled by UN Headquarters with the Ethiopian permanent mission in New York. UNHQ is also handling difficult negotiations for the self-deployment of the 2nd Ethiopian Battalion, he said, noting there are significant cost issues to be worked out. Weiszeggar had not heard anything new about the possibility of receiving military transport helicopters, stating that to his knowledge the UN is still waiting on pledges from TCCs.

¶3. (SBU) Weiszeggar cited the latest UNAMID deployment figures as 13,129 military personnel, 559 FPU personnel, and 1,742 individual police as of April 21. He noted that there was a ceiling of 1800 imposed for individual police (as opposed to FPUs), but that the mission was looking at increasing this ceiling to 2100 starting in June. There are 3,445 civilian staff deployed, and several thousand individual contractors, many taken on after the departure of PAE. There are no planned incoming deployments in April, he said. In May, planned deployments include 3 Bangladeshi FPUs of 140 men each, a 175 man Bangladeshi Sector Reserve Company, and a 35 man Bangladeshi Movecon Platoon.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: The issue of reimbursement to Ethiopia for overland deployment is being negotiated in New York. There is no question that overland deployment of the 2nd Ethiopian Battalion would be highly beneficial to UNAMID's operational capability; anything that can be done to advance this proposal would be very welcome by UNAMID. Military transport helicopters will be critical

to UNAMID's Mobile Monitoring Team proposal (in order to be able to monitor a ceasefire or interim security arrangements that may be reached between the movements and the government in the coming months). Without military transport, UNAMID will be hard pressed to ascertain the facts and quickly cover potential flashpoints should an actual ceasefire be secured. End comment.

FERNANDEZ